	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Vegetables										
Onions										
WPI	-10.3	-2.3	-2.3	24.1	40.6	16.2	19.0	17.8	-2.6	-
CPI(IW)	3.4	14.8	-8.6	-1.0	4.8	-5.2	-3.6	0.5	14.5	-
Potatoes										
WPI	78.8	27.2	-4.3	0.6	6.7	17.9	27.7	21.9	6.6	-
CPI(IW)	6.3	14.7	-3.3	-6.8	-5.1	6.4	13.3	5.5	-3.1	-
Kerosene										
WPI	17.4	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	18.8	16.6
CPI(IW)	18.2	16.0	16.5	19.4	17.2	18.4	19.8	21.0	21.3	-

Differential rate on interest

22. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR. AKHILESH DAS: DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified three segments for the differential rates of interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to ensure that falling interest rate is not going to hit pensioners and senior citizens; and

(d) if so, broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANADNRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) As per present regulations, banks are prohibited to discriminate in the matter of rates of interest paid on deposits except in respect of single term deposits exceeding Rs. 15 lakh. Based on the requests received from several senior citizens and their organizations, banks were permitted in April, 2001 to formulate fixed deposit scheme specifically meant for senior citizens offering higher and fixect rates of

interest as compared to normal deposits of any size. Many Banks had introduced such schemes, which have simplified procedures for automatic transfer of deposits of nominees of such depositors in the event of death. With the deregulation of interest rates since October 1997. the Reserve Bank no longer prescribes (higher) interest rates for any section of society.

Recent fall in the deposit rates could be seen against decline in the inflation rate. The average inflation rate, as measured by variations in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), declined from 10.5 per cent during 1990-91 to 1995-96 to 4.8 per cent during the last six years (1996-97 to 2001-02). Consequently, the real interest rates on deposits are positive.

Inflow of foreign investment

23. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the US Treasury Secretary, India was lagging behind China in foreign direct investment inflows due to poor governance and lack of economic freedom;

(b) if so, whether India's strong English language skills and democratic system of Government should make it preferable to US investors over a country lacking both; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to see that economy of the country is further improved to foreign investment inflow from US and other countries is increased to give a push to our economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) While enjoying our systemic advantage, Government is making continuous efforts to make India an attractive destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by providing an internationally competitive investment climate in terms of policy, procedures and institutions. In order to catalyse FDI, the Government has also permitted access through the automatic route for FDI upto 100% in most activities.